#### **MEMORANDUM**

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

DATE: October 22, 2003

TO: Arthur Graham

Director, OCIO/Information Management

THROUGH: Sally Budd

Director, Development Services Group

FROM: Keith M. Stubbs

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SUBJECT: Internet Customer Survey Results - September 2003 Update

More than 4,000 customers have responded to the Department's Internet customer survey since November 1996. The purpose of this memorandum is to update the October 30, 2002 report on the first 3,782 responses, which were received from November 1996 through mid-October 2002, and examine the 249 responses received in the 10½ months between then and the launch of the redesigned www.ed.gov website on September 7, 2003.

#### **Highlights**

The survey responses received in the last 10½ months indicate that:

- Our **most frequent users** are students (26%), parents (24%), teachers and professors (12%), education administrators and managers (8%), and researchers and analysts (6%). To a lesser extent, our users include librarians (2%), writers and reporters (1%), policy makers and legislators (<1%), and miscellaneous others (19%) including counselors and consultants. Most student respondents are at the college level rather than the elementary and secondary level. Most administrators/managers and teachers are at the elementary and secondary level. Most researchers are affiliated with colleges, associations, or for-profit or non-profit organizations.
- Our **users' organizational affiliation** is private individuals (29%), colleges and universities (20%), elementary and secondary education (21%), junior and community colleges (6%), associations and non-profit organizations (4%), forprofit organizations and businesses (4%), federal government (3%), libraries (3%), state government (2%), White House or Congress (1%), local government (<1%), and miscellaneous others (7%).
- The majority of respondents **visit ED's Web site** at least once a month; 45% visit it at least once a week. This year's responses show a modest 3% shift

toward more frequent visits. Administrators/managers and researchers tend to visit ED's Web site more frequently than the average respondent. Students tend to visit less frequently, which is consistent with the notion that most students visit solely for financial aid.

• **Overall satisfaction** dropped from 3.56 (on a scale of 1-5) in last year's responses to 3.51 in this year's responses. Administrators/managers and teachers were the most satisfied customers. Students were the least satisfied customers.

Satisfaction was highest in the five presentation (3.60) and responsiveness (3.51) categories and slightly lower in the information content (3.44) and organization (3.37) categories. The highest-rated individual categories were web screen responsiveness (3.86), search responsiveness (3.75), clarity of writing (3.70), clarity of graphics (3.67), clarity of tables/charts (3.59), and accuracy (3.57). The lowest-rated categories were ease of finding information of interest (3.23), relevance to needs (3.29), menus and categories (3.37), comprehensiveness, (3.39), usefulness of links (3.40), and search tools (3.41).

Comments indicate that the small drop in satisfaction is attributable to (a) raised customer expectations for web sites in general, (b) mixed response to the October 2001 redesign, and (c) a shift in customer needs from the relatively mature information offerings of the ED web site to the more complex student aid services and other e-commerce offerings that the new e-Government initiatives are starting to address.

- Respondents consider most kinds of information ED provides to be useful or very useful (2.36 on a scale of 1 to 3). The overall usefulness rating dropped slightly this year from 2.31 to 2.27 this year. Ratings dropped for 13 of the 19 categories. Ratings rose most for legislation and regulations and descriptions of ED-funded projects. Ratings dropped most for statistics, research findings, lesson plans and teacher guides, and research reports.
- When asked how ED's Internet services should be improved, respondents suggested:
  - putting all ED information online promptly and keeping it up-to-date;
  - presenting information in layman's terms with simple explanations of complicated rules and procedures;
  - providing a tutorial or quick tour for first-time visitors to help them navigate the site;
  - providing an orientation to the Department, including its mission, scope, organization, functions, history, etc.;
  - providing complete contact information for all Department officials, programs, services, activities, and investigative/enforcement functions;
  - improving responsiveness to customer inquiries;
  - improving ease of use for student financial aid services and making it easier to find specific student aid services;
  - providing comparative rating and ranking information about schools,

- districts, and states;
- using the web to support the full grant lifecycle, including an always-current forecast of funding opportunities, comprehensive, up-to-date information about each grant program in a consistent format, and information to help prospective applicants;
- offering more information and resources of direct utility to parents and teachers; and
- providing a more comprehensive gateway to education information and services elsewhere.
- See Attachment B for selected "**Rants & Raves**" representing the most positive and negative overall comments in the 249 responses received in the last 10½ months.

#### **Purpose of the Survey**

Web usage logs provide much useful data – the number of times each file is accessed, when, from which Internet address, and using which Web browser. From that data we can derive the kind of information included in the Web Services Group's monthly reports – the growth in customer traffic over time, the most frequently used files, and the most widely used Web browsers among our customers.

The Internet Customer Survey (Attachment C) was designed to provide insight into some important customer characteristics that we cannot glean from the usage logs:

- What kinds of people and organizations use our information?
- How often do they visit ED's Web sites? Do they subscribe to the EDInfo email list?
- ➤ How satisfied are they with the information we provide its usefulness, timeliness, accuracy, comprehensiveness, and presentation?
- ➤ How satisfied are they with the way the information is organized and with the menus, links, and search tools we provide to help them find information of interest?
- What kinds of information are most valuable to them?
- How do they prefer to use various types of information, and what formats are most useful? What is their technical capacity to receive and use the information?
- > What kinds of new services would be most valuable to them in the future?

#### **Conducting the Survey**

The survey, which the Internet team designed in consultation with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the Office of the Under Secretary (OUS), was approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and made available on the ED Web site in November 1996. Since then OMB has re-approved the survey twice. An updated analysis of the responses is issued every year.

#### What the Responses Tell Us

The survey cannot be considered a random sample, since respondents were visitors to the ED Web site who took the time to respond.

This memorandum focuses on the responses received in the last year. However, cumulative tabulations of all 4,031 responses are included on the assumption that they help provide a balanced view of our customer base over time.

The response rate fell from 6.4 per week last year to 5.4 per week this year.

- The number of respondents in the policy maker, librarian, and writer categories in the response groups the last two years was very small (fewer than eight per year). The small number of respondents tends to make the categories appear as outliers, e.g., extremely high or low satisfaction ratings. Therefore, those groups are excluded from most of the tables and statements below.
- The cumulative responses to Questions #7 through 10, which ask customers to rate their satisfaction in eighteen categories covering all aspects of the ED Web site, show that **overall satisfaction** over the duration of the survey has been high 3.75 on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5=very satisfied, 4=satisfied, 3=neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 2=dissatisfied, and 1=very dissatisfied.
  - Overall satisfaction in this year's responses was 3.51, down slightly from last year (3.56). Administrators/managers and teachers were the most satisfied customers. Students were the least satisfied customers.
  - Across all eighteen categories, the general distribution of this year's responses was 59% satisfied or better, 22% neutral, and 19% dissatisfied or worse – a 1% shift toward dissatisfaction from last year.
  - > Surprisingly, satisfaction for the responsiveness categories appears to vary inversely with the users' connection speed. Users with direct Internet connections are less satisfied than users with modems, and users with fast modems are less satisfied than users with slower modems. It appears that users with direct connections may have higher expectations of web sites than do modem users.
- No responses were excluded from the results, even those that voice bitter opposition to the Department's existence and gave the lowest available rating in all categories. See Attachment B for selected "Rants & Raves" representing the most positive and negative overall comments in the 249 responses received in the last 10½ months.

## What kinds of people and organizations use our information? (See Attachment A, Questions #1 and #2)

- Based on this year's responses, our most frequent users are students (26%), parents (24%), teachers and professors (12%), education administrators and managers (8%), and researchers and analysts (6%). To a lesser extent, our users include librarians (2%), writers and reporters (1%), policy makers and legislators (<1%), and miscellaneous others (19%) including counselors and consultants.</li>
  - This year's responses include a lower percentage of education administrators/managers (-4%), researcher/analysts (-4%), and students (-1%) and a higher percentage of parents (+6%) and teachers (+4%) than last year's responses.
  - Most student respondents are at the college level rather than the elementary and secondary level. Most administrators/managers and teachers are at the elementary and secondary level. Most researchers are affiliated with colleges, associations, or for-profit or non-profit organizations.
- Based on this year's responses, our **users' organizational affiliation** is private individuals (29%), colleges and universities (20%), elementary and secondary education (21%), junior and community colleges (6%), associations and non-profit organizations (4%), for-profit organizations and businesses (4%), federal government (3%), libraries (3%), state government (2%), White House or Congress (1%), local government (<1%), and miscellaneous others (7%).

## How often do they visit ED's Web site? Do they subscribe to the EDInfo listserv?

(See Attachment A, Questions #3, #4, and #6)

- The majority of respondents visit ED's Web site at least once a month; 45% visit it at least once a week.
  - > This year's responses show a modest 3% shift toward more frequent visits.
  - ➤ This year's responses show that administrators/managers and researchers tend to visit ED's Web site more frequently than the average respondent; students tend to visit less frequently. That is consistent with the notion that most students visit solely for financial aid.
- More than half of our customers have direct Internet connections; the rest use modem connections.

 Current and former subscribers to the EDInfo listserv are much more likely to be frequent users of ED's Web site than respondents who never subscribed to EDInfo.

How satisfied are they with the information we provide – its usefulness, timeliness, accuracy, comprehensiveness, and presentation?

(See Attachment A, Question #7)

Category		ı. Ratir (Rank)		10/16/2001 through	10/16/2002 through 9/7/2003
	Cum.	Last Yr.	This Yr.	10/15/2002 (last year)	(this year)
Relevance to your needs	3.65 (13)	3.43 (14)	3.29 (17)	Rated highest by  Teachers (4.08)  Researchers (3.84)  Managers (3.84)  Rated lowest by  Parents (3.22)	Rated highest by Managers (4.11) Rated lowest by Students (3.18) Parents (3.19)
Timeliness	3.85 (5)	3.62 (9)	3.54 (8)	Rated highest by Teachers (4.17) Researchers (4.03) Managers (3.84) Rated lowest by Students (3.48)	Rated highest by Managers (3.94) Teachers (3.88) Rated lowest by Parents (3.35) Students (3.42)
Accuracy	3.91 (2)	3.63 (8)	3.57 (6)	Rated highest by Teachers (4.13) Researchers (3.86) Managers (3.81) Rated lowest by Parents (3.42)	Rated highest by Managers (4.11) Rated lowest by Parents (3.45) Students (3.45)
Completeness/ comprehensiveness	3.64 (14)	3.43 (14)	3.39 (15)	Rated highest by Teachers (3.96) Managers (3.72) Rated lowest by Parents (3.29)	Rated highest by Managers (4.06) Teachers (4.00) Rated lowest by Parents (3.21) Students (3.28)
Overall usefulness	3.69 (10)	3.45 (12)	3.42 (12)	Rated highest by Teachers (4.21) Managers (3.78) Researchers (3.71) Rated lowest by	Rated highest by Managers (4.11) Researchers (3.70) Rated lowest by Parents (3.34)
Total: all 5 information categories	3.75	3.51	3.44	Rated highest by Teachers (4.11) Researchers (3.83) Managers (3.80) Rated lowest by Parents (3.38)	Rated highest by Managers (4.07) Teachers (3.76) Rated lowest by Parents (3.31) Students (3.34)

<sup>5=</sup>very satisfied, 4=satisfied, 3=neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 2=dissatisfied, and 1=very dissatisfied. Parenthesized number indicates category's rank among 18 satisfaction categories.

• Satisfaction dropped slightly in all five categories in this year's responses. Comments indicate that the drop is attributable to (a) raised customer expectations for web sites in general, (b) mixed response to the October 2001

redesign, and (c) a shift in customer needs from the relatively mature information offerings of the ED web site to the more complex student aid services and other e-commerce offerings that the new e-Government initiatives are starting to address.

- The percentage of dissatisfied customers in this year's responses was highest for relevance (27%), comprehensiveness (25%), and overall usefulness (24%); fewer customers were dissatisfied with timeliness (17%) and accuracy (17%). Some of the dissatisfaction appears to stem from confusion about the federal role in education.
- This year, administrators/managers and teachers tend to be most satisfied with the information that ED currently provides. Parents are least satisfied.
- A representative sample of **suggestions for improvement**:
  - General comments
    - Does a good job, just keep information updated
    - Generally speaking, I find it very hard to make much sense of much of the information presented. It's almost as if the website is for educational professionals only -- the "adminspeak" language needs to be toned down.
    - It to distracting, too many vivided areas on the screen. too "busy" complicated to navigate and find relevant info. looks like a web engine home page with lots of ads and links. this page needs to be re-done and simplified.
    - The website is very comfortable on my eyes
    - There wasn't much info.
    - The site is very overwhelming
    - Some of us don't have the time to browse a site for too long, if I don't see the information, or at lease a lead, I seek within 5 minutes, I have to move on or inquire e-mail.
  - General information
    - I can not find the definition of education on the web site
    - I was looking for information on the history of the Department of Education and was not able to find it i.e. when it was founded, who was the President, etc.
    - Can't find specific links to obtaining educational history, and credits etc. Is there such a place other than obtaining transcripts from the last school attended?
  - Contacts, alerts & interactivity
    - How do I email Ron Paige???? Where's the email address???
    - It would be helpful to have e-mail addresses for your employees. We have filed a complaint for our son with your office and it's hard for me to make phone calls during the day. It would be so much easier to check the progress of the investigation if I were able to e-mail the person in charge of his case.
    - Need to make it easier to contact specific subject areas for questions.
    - I find it hard to find specific information. For example I'm have been trying to find information regarding Perkins assignments beyond the regulation handbook. The contact department listed with the assignment guidelines knows nothing and why they list them as a source is beyond me. I cannot locate anything on the web site nor can I figure out what dept I should contact. It may simple be there nothing available outside the written regs but a knowledgeable contact person would be greatly appreciated.
    - It would be nice if the "Electronic Phonebook" could be searched using a catagory such as "student loans" instead of just searching for individuals.
  - State & local information
    - I'm looking for the site where I can find the educational ratings for each state as to the best state to the worse in education.
    - Exemplary as well as deficient schools for my area are of particular interest as a parent and community involved citizen.

- I would like to find info on how my school district is doing and was not able to find it.
- it needs more info to help any one. If there looking for new schools. and how many children go there. who runs it and so one.
- I tried finding something fairly simple: a listing of US Public High Schools -- and could find nothing!
- Helping teachers & students
  - Grade specific information would be handy since teachers only get a small bit of the information but are responsible for carrying through legislation without seeing it.
  - I clicked on this sight hoping to find some help for my son who attends a school in Rapid City and is having trouble in reading at his grade level. His I.Q is 113 and in 5th grade but his reading level is 2nd grade and his math skills are 3rd to 4th grade. I'm leaving this sight with no direction. I'll keep searching.
  - Information content I seek is how to verify that a vocational school I wish to attend is for real. I did not find any place to look for this.

## How satisfied are they with the way the information is organized and with the menus, links, and search tools we provide to help them find information of interest?

(See Attachment A, Questions #8, #9, and #10)

Category		j. Ratir (Rank)	ng*	10/16/2001 through	10/16/2002 through 9/7/2003
	Cum.	Last Yr.	This Yr.	10/15/2002 (last year)	(this year)
Clarity of the writing (readability, ease of interpretation)	4.10 (1)	3.86 (1)	3.70 (3)	Rated highest by Teachers (4.25) Managers (3.91) Rated lowest by	Rated highest by Teachers (4.30) Rated lowest by Parents (3.53)
Layout of the material	3.89 (4)	3.64 (6)	3.49 (10)	Rated highest by Teachers (4.08) Managers (3.81) Rated lowest by	Rated highest by Managers (4.29) Rated lowest by Students (3.32)
Clarity of the tables and charts	3.91 (2)	3.73 (3)	3.59 (5)	Rated highest by Teachers (4.13) Researchers (4.00) Rated lowest by Parents (3.52)	Rated highest by Managers (4.29) Rated lowest by Researchers (3.38) Students (3.42)
Amount of graphics (too few, too many)	3.72 (8)	3.64 (6)	3.57 (6)	Rated highest by Teachers (4.00) Rated lowest by Parents (3.49)	Rated highest by Managers (4.06) Rated lowest by Researchers (3.38)
Clarity of the graphics	3.81 (6)	3.71 (4)	3.67 (4)	Rated highest by Teachers (4.13) Rated lowest by Parents (3.48)	Rated highest by Managers (4.12) Rated lowest by Parents (3.50)
Total: all 5 presentation categories	3.89	3.71	3.60	Rated highest by Teachers (4.12) Researchers (3.79) Rated lowest by Parents (3.58)	Rated highest by Managers (4.18) Rated lowest by Researchers (3.48) Parents (3.48)

<sup>5=</sup>very satisfied, 4=satisfied, 3=neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 2=dissatisfied, and 1=very dissatisfied. Parenthesized number indicates category's rank among 18 satisfaction categories.

- Although ratings dropped slightly in all five presentation categories in this
  year's responses, respondents remain more satisfied with the presentation of
  the information than with the other satisfaction categories.
- This year, administrators/managers and teachers tend to be most satisfied with the presentation of the information that ED currently provides. Parents and researchers are least satisfied.

Category		j. Ratir (Rank)		10/16/2001 through	10/16/2002 through 9/7/2003
	Cum.	Last Yr.	This Yr.	10/15/2002 (last year)	(this year)
Ease of finding information of interest	3.58 (17)	3.29 (18)	3.23 (18)	Rated highest by Teachers (4.04) Parents (3.40) Rated lowest by Researchers (3.03)	Rated highest by Managers (3.83) Rated lowest by Researchers (2.63) Students (3.18)
Ease of finding new material	3.61 (15)	3.37 (17)	3.44 (11)	Rated highest by Teachers (4.00) Rated lowest by Researchers (3.17)	Rated highest by Managers (4.00) Rated lowest by Students (3.23)
Menus and categories (clarity, ease of use)	3.67 (11)	3.45 (12)	3.37 (16)	Rated highest by Teachers (3.96) Managers (3.58) Rated lowest by Researchers (3.17)	Rated highest by Managers (4.00) Rated lowest by Students (3.09)
Links (relevance, usefulness)	3.70 (9)	3.47 (11)	3.40 (14)	Rated highest by Teachers (4.00) Managers (3.73) Rated lowest by Researchers (3.37)	Rated highest by Managers (3.94) Rated lowest by Students (3.24) Parents (3.29)
Search tools	3.57 (18)	3.43 (14)	3.41 (13)	Rated highest by Teachers (3.87) Managers (3.57) Rated lowest by	Rated highest by Managers (3.94) Rated lowest by Researchers (3.25) Students (3.26)
Total: all 5 organization categories	3.63	3.40	3.37	Rated highest by Teachers (3.97) Managers (3.51) Rated lowest by Researchers (3.21)	Rated highest by Managers (3.94) Teachers (3.59) Rated lowest by Students (3.20)

<sup>5=</sup>very satisfied, 4=satisfied, 3=neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 2=dissatisfied, and 1=very dissatisfied. Parenthesized number indicates category's rank among 18 satisfaction categories.

Category	Avg. Rating* (Rank)		ng <sup>*</sup>	10/16/2001 through	10/16/2002 through 9/7/2003
	Cum.	Last	This	10/15/2002	(this year)
		Yr.	Yr.	(last year)	
Web/gopher screens	3.76	3.81	3.86	Rated highest by	Rated highest by
(quick/sluggish)	(7)	(2)	(1)	Managers (4.20)	Managers (4.13)
				Teachers (4.17)	Rated lowest by
				Researchers (4.07)	▶ Parents (3.63)
				Rated lowest by	
				▶ Parents (3.57)	
Searches (quick/sluggish)	3.67	3.69	3.75	Rated highest by	Rated highest by
	(11)	(5)	(2)	Researchers (4.15)	Managers (4.27)

Category		. Ratir Rank)		10/16/2001 through	10/16/2002 through 9/7/2003
	Cum.	Last Yr.	This Yr.	10/15/2002 (last year)	(this year)
				Preachers (4.09) Preachers (3.92) Rated lowest by Parents (3.52)	Researchers (3.88) Rated lowest by Parents (3.62)
Webmaster@inet.ed.gov (email inquiries: speed and quality of reply)	3.61 (15)	3.53 (10)	3.50 (9)	Rated highest by Teachers (3.95) Managers (3.92) Researchers (3.73) Rated lowest by Students (3.39)	Rated highest by Managers (3.78) Teachers (3.69) Rated lowest by Researchers (3.13) Parents (3.32)
Total: all 3 responsiveness categories	3.69	3.69	3.72	Rated highest by Teachers (4.07) Managers (4.05) Researchers (4.03) Rated lowest by Parents (3.55)	Rated highest by Managers (4.10) Rated lowest by Parents (3.53) Researchers (3.58)
Total: all 18 satisfaction categories	3.75	3.56	3.51	Rated highest by Teachers (4.07) Managers (3.75) Researchers (3.67) Rated lowest by	Rated highest by Managers (4.07) Teachers (3.80) Rated lowest by Students (3.40) Parents (3.42)

<sup>5 =</sup>very satisfied, 4=satisfied, 3=neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 2=dissatisfied, and 1=very dissatisfied. Parenthesized number indicates category's rank among 18 satisfaction categories.

- Ratings rose this year for ease of finding new material, speed of searches, and speed of web screens, while dropping for the other fifteen satisfaction categories. Ratings dropped most for relevance, layout of the material, and clarity of the tables, charts, and writing.
- This year, administrators/managers and teachers tend to be most satisfied with the organization and finding aids on the ED web site. Students are least satisfied.
- Administrators/managers and teachers tend to be **most satisfied** with responsiveness. Parents and researchers are least satisfied.
- The ratings and comments in the organization categories reflect the difficulty of organizing a large body of information into a scheme that works well for such a broad range of customers. Some representative **comments** are:
  - General organization
    - I really liked the way the material was organized. In particular, the highlighted content was helpful.
    - The website is a bit crowded and not well organized. Sometimes it is difficult to locate the information that I am looking for.
    - it needs to be spred out better
    - Information, directions not user friendly for people who are not familiar with this site.
    - Too much crap to deal with on main page. You should make it easier to use and find what is needed and the go to a specific page that deals with one thing only. Need better

- directions on how to use the site and not automatically assume the user knows the government terms you are currently using or the names of the particular program.
- Too difficult for layperson to find information to our specific needs for our family situation simplify choices and/or at the least put a description that we can understand or it takes for ever to find anything.
- Student aid
  - I log on to the website to find out about my student loan, it ususally takes about 1/2 to navigate to finally 'accidentaly' find it. It needs to STAND OUT, be easier to find, or include a link, if I'm not using the right page.
  - I am trying to find out about my status for this fall term of 2003-2004, i am having trouble finding out where to go to find the information. i feel i am just going in circles
  - Have student loan accounts accessible on this site. I am well educated, but can not find
    the time to get through all the junk on this website to find out about my loans.
  - Why can't I easily find information on repaying my loan??? After following various links and then finally getting to the "repayment" page, the only information listed was for defaulted loans, or consolidating loans, or finding out about loans you might apply for. Isn't the department interested in making it easy for those of us trying to repay our loans get information on it???? I was looking for the 800 number to call and find out about my own loan and STILL HAVEN'T FOUND IT!!!
- This year, search tools received a slightly higher rating for responsiveness.
   Search engine technology cannot yet overcome the gap between some users' wish for more powerful search features and their inability to exploit even the basic features of existing search tools.
  - > Although equipment upgrades have improved search speed, customers are still struggling with formulating precise searches and finding the results they seek. Analysis of search logs shows that most customers search for general terms (e.g., "grants," "technology," "standards") for which the search engine has trouble returning the most relevant items from the hundreds of thousands of items in the search index. Logs show that few customers avail themselves of the help screens to learn how to search effectively.

Another issue is that as the amount of material on the web site grows and some of it ages, the difficulty of highlighting the most current information in search results has become a significant problem, which we are addressing by archiving older content and introducing a new sort option called "date relevance."

- Most respondents who chose to comment felt that search results are not precise enough and waste their time with marginally relevant materials, which is consistent with the imprecise search terms the logs show they tend to use.
  - I don't have any trouble getting to where I need to search and its so easy to find what I am looking for.
  - The search provides so many hits that it is hard to find the information I need sometimes
  - Could not find a search capability within the web site.
  - Let people know the search button at the top of the screen is for searching within the site.
  - The ability to find information using your search engine is pathetic!

#### What kinds of information are most valuable to them?

(See Attachment A, Question #11)

	Kind of information	_	ı. Ratir	_	10/16/2001	10/16/2002
			(Rank)		through	through 9/7/2003
		Cum.	Last Yr.	This Yr.	10/15/2002 (last year)	(this year)
H i g h	Legislation and regulations	2.35 (11)	2.30 (11)	2.38 (1)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.78) Rated lowest by Parents (2.13) Students (2.18)	Rated highest by Managers (2.71) Teachers (2.50) Rated lowest by Researchers (2.17) Parents (2.25)
	Updates on budget, legislation, and activities	2.43 (4)	2.33 (4)	2.35 (2)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.83) Rated lowest by Parents (2.13)	Rated highest by Managers (2.57) Researchers (2.50) Rated lowest by Parents (2.20)
	General guides to the Department of Education and its programs and services	2.37 (10)	2.33 (4)	2.34 (3)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.65) Managers (2.47) Rated lowest by	Rated highest by Researchers (3.00) Managers (2.56) Rated lowest by Parents (2.18)
	Student aid information	2.31 (15)	2.32 (8)	2.34 (3)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.81) Teachers (2.50) Rated lowest by Parents (2.17)	Rated highest by Managers (2.58) Rated lowest by Parents (2.25)
	Announcements of funding opportunities and information about grants and contracts	2.48 (1)	2.39 (1)	(5)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.86) Rated lowest by Parents (2.24)	Rated highest by Managers (2.77) Researchers (2.67) Rated lowest by Parents (2.16)
	Descriptions of ED-funded projects	2.34 (12)	2.26 (17)	2.32 (5)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.73) Rated lowest by Parents (2.14) Students (2.18)	Rated highest by Managers (2.69) Teachers (2.44) Rated lowest by Parents (2.10)
M e d i u m	Descriptions of exemplary schools and programs	2.39 (8)	2.30 (11)	2.30 (7)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.63) Rated lowest by Parents (2.25)	Rated highest by Researchers (3.00) Managers (2.50) Rated lowest by Parents (2.17)
	Conference calendars and announcements of upcoming events	2.31 (15)	2.31 (10)	2.29 (8)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.62) Teachers (2.42) Rated lowest by Parents (2.19) Students (2.20)	Rated highest by Managers (2.55) Rated lowest by Researchers (2.20)
	Full-text publications	2.38 (9)	2.30 (11)	2.29 (8)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.75) Teachers (2.45) Rated lowest by Students (2.18) Parents (2.19)	Rated highest by Managers (2.69) Researchers (2.60) Rated lowest by Parents (2.03)

	Kind of information		ı. Ratir (Rank)	ng <sup>*</sup>	10/16/2001 through	10/16/2002 through 9/7/2003
		Cum.	Last Yr.	This Yr.	10/15/2002 (last year)	(this year)
	Directories of information centers, clearinghouses, and technical assistance centers	2.43 (5)	2.34 (3)	2.28 (10)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.86) Rated lowest by Parents (2.26)	Rated highest by Researchers (3.00) Managers (2.50) Rated lowest by Parents (2.03)
	Descriptions of effective and promising practices	2.41 (7)	2.30 (11)	2.26 (11)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.52) Managers (2.42) Rated lowest by Parents (2.21) Students (2.25)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.86) Managers (2.53) Teachers (2.40) Rated lowest by Parents (2.17) Students (2.17)
	Research reports	2.44 (3)	2.35 (2)	2.24 (12)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.74) Rated lowest by Parents (2.17) Students (2.27)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.44) Managers (2.44) Rated lowest by Parents (2.10)
	Publication announcements	2.33 (13)	2.27 (16)	2.24 (12)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.73) Teachers (2.37) Rated lowest by Students (2.17)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.80) Managers (2.58) Rated lowest by Parents (2.09)
L o w	Activities for families, parents, and children	2.26 (17)	2.26 (17)	2.20 (14)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.56) Teachers (2.41) Rated lowest by Students (2.20)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.60) Teachers (2.37) Rated lowest by Parents (2.03)
	Statistics	2.42 (6)	2.33 (4)	2.19 (15)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.83) Rated lowest by Parents (2.13) Students (2.26)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.57) Managers (2.50) Rated lowest by Parents (1.97) Students (2.11)
	Research findings (syntheses and summaries)	2.46 (2)	2.32 (8)	2.19 (15)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.70) Managers (2.52) Rated lowest by Parents (2.14) Students (2.18)	Rated highest by Managers (2.44) Researchers (2.44) Rated lowest by Parents (2.10)
	Press releases	2.32 (14)	2.28 (15)	2.18 (17)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.55) Rated lowest by Parents (2.18) Students (2.18)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.75) Managers (2.40) Rated lowest by Parents (2.12) Students (2.13)
	Speeches and testimony	2.11 (18)	2.20 (18)	2.11 (18)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.59) Rated lowest by Parents (2.08) Managers (2.09)	Rated highest by Researchers (2.40) Managers (2.33) Rated lowest by Students (2.06)

Kind of information	Avg. Rating* (Rank)			10/16/2001 through	10/16/2002 through 9/7/2003
	Cum.	Last	This	10/15/2002	(this year)
		Yr.	Yr.	(last year)	
Total: all categories	2.36	2.31	2.27	Rated highest by	Rated highest by
				Researchers (2.70)	Researchers (2.63)
				Rated lowest by	Managers (2.54)
				Parents (2.19)	Rated lowest by
				Students (2.24)	▶ Parents (2.13)

- 3=very useful; 2=somewhat useful; 1=not useful
   Parenthesized number indicates category's rank among the 19 information categories.
- Respondents consider most kinds of information offered to be **useful or very useful** an overall cumulative average of 2.36 on a scale of 1 to 3.
  - ➤ The overall usefulness rating dropped slightly this year from 2.31 to 2.27. Overall the percentage of information types rated useful or very useful dropped from 63% to 54%.
- In this year's responses, researchers and administrators/managers tend to rate higher, while parents rate lower.
- **Ratings dropped** for 13 of the 19 categories. Ratings rose most for legislation and regulations and descriptions of ED-funded projects. Ratings dropped most for statistics, research findings, lesson plans and teacher guides, and research reports.
- Different audiences value different types of information. The following table lists the highest and lowest rated information categories for the major audience types.

Respondent Audience Type	Rated Highest	Rated Lowest
Admini-	<ol> <li>Funding opportunities</li> </ol>	Speeches and testimony
strator/	2. Legislation & regulations	2. Activities for families
Manager	3. Descriptions of ED-funded projects	3. Lesson plans
		4. Press releases
Parent	<ol> <li>Conference calendars</li> </ol>	1. Statistics
	2. Student aid information	2. Activities for families
	3. Legislation & regulations	3. Directories of info. centers &
		clearinghouses
Researcher	Exemplary schools	1. Legislation & regulations
	2. Directories of info. centers &	Conference calendars
	clearinghouses	3. Student aid information
	3. General guides to ED	
Student	<ol> <li>Student aid information</li> </ol>	Speeches and testimony
	2. Directories of info. centers &	2. Statistics
	clearinghouses	3. Press releases
	3. Legislation & regulations	
	4. Descriptions of ED-funded projects	
Teacher	1. Updates on budget & legislation	1. Lesson plans
	2. Legislation & regulations	2. Press releases

3. General guides to ED	3. Speeches and testimony
4. Descriptions of ED-funded projects	

## How do they prefer to use various types of information, and what formats are most useful?

(See Attachment A, Question #12)

Question #12 was removed from the survey in September 1998 in response to customer requests to shorten the survey. Analysis of the responses received before then is included in previous memoranda.

What kinds of new services would be most valuable to them in the future? (See Attachment A, Question #13, #14, and #15)

Overall response to the fourteen potential new services listed on the survey indicates that we are on the right track. Most of the services that received the highest number of votes have been addressed since the survey began or will be addressed by projects already planned or underway.

In descending order of their popularity in this year's responses, the fourteen new services listed on the survey are:

Kind of New Service	% Vote for (Rank) *		or *	10/16/2001 through	10/16/2002 through 9/7/2003
	Cum.	Last	This	10/15/2002	(this year)
Electronic submission of	51.6	<b>Yr.</b> 42.9	<b>Yr.</b> 43.0	(last year)	Dated highest by
grant applications	(1)	(1)	(1)	Rated highest by Researchers (50%)	Rated highest by Students (59%)
ED implemented e-	(1)	(1)	(1)	Students (50%)	Teachers (53%)
Application, an electronic				Rated lowest by	Rated lowest by
grant application system				Rated lowest by	Researchers (7%)
<pre><gapsweb.ed.gov e-<="" pre=""></gapsweb.ed.gov></pre>					Researchers (770)
app/eaHome.asp>, in 2000.					
Education resource	50.6	40.2	40.2	Rated highest by	Rated highest by
organization directory	(2)	(2)	(2)	Researchers (66%)	Teachers (53%)
The Education Resource	(-)	(-)	(-)	Parents (49%)	Managers (48%)
Organizations Directory				Managers (48%)	Rated lowest by
(EROD)				Rated lowest by	▶ Parents (35%)
<pre><www.ed.gov ero<="" pre="" programs=""></www.ed.gov></pre>				Students (31%)	, ,
D/> was implemented in				, ,	
February 1997, contains					
information on 4,000+					
organizations, and is used					
10,000+ times per month.					
Electronic submission of	38.2	33.8	38.2	Rated highest by	Rated highest by
student aid applications	(8)	(5)	(3)	Students (51%)	Students (62%)
Student Financial Assistance				Rated lowest by	Rated lowest by
(SFA) implemented FAFSA				Managers (19%)	Researchers (13%)
on the Web					Managers (14%)
<www.fafsa.ed.gov> in 1997</www.fafsa.ed.gov>					
and improves it each year.					

Kind of New Service		% Vote for		10/16/2001	10/16/2002
	Cum.	Rank) <sup>*</sup> Last Yr.	This Yr.	through 10/15/2002 (last year)	through 9/7/2003 (this year)
Search full text of education information across all federal Internet sites The Cross-Site Index <www.ed.gov earch="" exps="" help="" index.html?src="ln" site=""> was implemented in February 1998. It currently indexes nearly 500,000 files on 200+ ED-funded web sites and another several hundred education-related web sites for Federal Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE) <www.ed.gov free=""></www.ed.gov>.</www.ed.gov>	43.7 (5)	39.3 (3)	34.1 (4)	Rated highest by Researchers (63%) Teachers (46%) Rated lowest by	Rated highest by Managers (52%) Teachers (43%) Researchers (40%) Rated lowest by Parents (30%)
Electronic submission of publication orders The ED Pubs online publication catalog and ordering facility <www.edpubs.org> was implemented in August 1998 and received outstanding reviews in a government-wide customer service poll in 1999.</www.edpubs.org>	48.1 (3)	31.7 (8)	32.1 (5)	Rated highest by Researchers (50%) Teachers (39%) Rated lowest by	Rated highest by Nanagers (48%) Teachers (40%) Rated lowest by Parents (23%)
Electronic submission of survey responses NCES has implemented electronic submission for all IPEDS (postsecondary institutions) and some library surveys. NCES plans to do more surveys that way in the future.	42.8 (6)	32.3 (7)	30.1 (6)	Rated highest by Researchers (47%) Rated lowest by Teachers (27%)	Rated highest by Managers (52%) Students (37%) Teachers (37%) Rated lowest by Researchers (20%)
Database/search of published statistical indicators, tables, and charts NCES implemented the Encyclopedia of Education Stats <nces.ed.gov edstats=""></nces.ed.gov> in 1999 to help customers find relevant information in major compendia. Quick Tables & Figures <nces.ed.gov quicktables=""></nces.ed.gov> helps customers find the most current info from Education Statistics Quarterly.	47.0 (4)	34.4 (4)	27.7 (7)	Rated highest by Researchers (69%) Managers (57%) Rated lowest by Students (25%)	Rated highest by Managers (48%) Researchers (40%) Teachers (33%) Rated lowest by Parents (23%) Students (29%)

Kind of New Service	_	Vote f		10/16/2001	10/16/2002		
		(Rank)		through	through 9/7/2003		
	Cum.	Last Yr.	This Yr.	10/15/2002 (last year)	(this year)		
Search collections of	36.8	29.0	27.3	Rated highest by	Rated highest by		
lesson plans and other	(9)	(9)	(8)	Teachers (46%)	Teachers (43%)		
teacher materials across	(5)	(2)	(0)	Researchers (41%)	Managers (38%)		
many Internet sites				Rated lowest by	Rated lowest by		
The Gateway to Education					Researchers (13%)		
Materials (GEM)					,		
<www.thegateway.org> was</www.thegateway.org>							
implemented in March 1998							
and currently contains more							
than 22,000 items from							
more than 350 member web							
sites.							
Custom table generator	42.2	32.6	24.9	Rated highest by	Rated highest by		
for education statistics	(7)	(6)	(9)	Researchers (66%)	Managers (48%)		
NCES has implemented				Managers (52%)	Researchers (33%)		
online search and analysis				Rated lowest by	Rated lowest by		
capabilities for several of its major survey data sets				Parents (24%)	Teachers (20%)		
<nces.ed.gov pubsearch<="" td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></nces.ed.gov>							
/onlinedata.asp>.							
Live "chat" sessions on	29.0	25.1	24.9	Rated highest by	Rated highest by		
education topics	(11)	(11)	(9)	Students (36%)	Students (35%)		
ED has no current plans for	, ,	, ,	, ,	▶ Teachers (31%)	Teachers (30%)		
such a capability but will				Rated lowest by	Rated lowest by		
continue to monitor				Managers (21%)	Managers (5%)		
customer interest.					Researchers (20%)		
Live "town hall" meetings	30.7	22.7	23.7	Rated highest by	Rated highest by		
with Department	(10)	(12)	(11)	Teachers (31%)	Students (32%)		
representatives				Researchers (28%)	Rated lowest by		
The modest support for such a capability matches its				Rated lowest by	Researchers (13%) Managers (14%)		
position on ED's list of					Managers (14%)		
planned enhancements.							
Ongoing moderated	28.7	20.2	23.3	Rated highest by	Rated highest by		
discussion areas	(12)	(14)	(12)	Students (26%)	Teachers (33%)		
Web-based discussion				Rated lowest by	Managers (29%)		
forums were implemented,				Teachers (15%)	Rated lowest by		
beginning in 1998, to				` ′	Researchers (13%)		
support several working							
groups and topical							
discussions at							
<wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov:8000< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov:8000<>							
>. Most are currently							
dormant.							

Kind of New Service		Vote f		10/16/2001 through	10/16/2002 through 9/7/2003
	Cum.	Last	This	10/15/2002	(this year)
Video transcripts of	24.4	<b>Yr.</b> 25.4	<b>Yr.</b> 20.9	(last year) Rated highest by	Rated highest by
speeches and	(13)	(10)	(13)	Students (33%)	Students (31%)
presentations by	(13)	(10)	(13)	Rated lowest by	Rated lowest by
Secretary and other ED				Managers (21%)	Researchers (13%)
representatives				Managers (21%)	Parents (15%)
In 1998, the Office of Public					Farents (15%)
Affairs (OPA) began					
sponsoring live and archived					
video webcasts of news					
events at					
<pre><www.connectlive.com< pre=""></www.connectlive.com<></pre>					
/events/deptedu/>.					
Audio transcripts of	23.0	21.5	19.3	Rated highest by	Rated highest by
speeches and	(14)	(13)	(14)	Students (26%)	Researchers (29%)
presentations by	(±1)	(13)	(±1)	Rated lowest by	• Students (26%)
Secretary and other ED				itated forest sy	Rated lowest by
representatives					• Teachers (13%)
In 1998, the Office of Public					. 505.15.5 (25.75)
Affairs (OPA) began regularly					
posting short audio clips at					
<www.ed.gov audi<="" av="" news="" td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></www.ed.gov>					
o/index.html?src=ln>.					
Total – all categories	38.3	30.8	29.3	Rated highest by	Rated highest by
				Researchers (44%)	Students (35%)
				Rated lowest by	Managers (35%)
					Teachers (34%)
					Rated lowest by
					Researchers (23%)

<sup>\*</sup> Parenthesized number indicates category's rank among the 14 potential new services.

#### **Customer Suggestions for Improving ED's Internet Services**

This year's responses are consistent with trends noted in previous years in respondents' suggestions for improving ED's Internet services in their comments to Questions #14, #15, and #7-10:

- put all ED information online promptly and keep it up-to-date;
- present information in layman's terms, with simple explanations of complicated rules and procedures;
- provide a tutorial or quick tour for first-time visitors to the web site to help them navigate the site;
- provide an **orientation** to the Department, including its mission, organization, scope, functions, history, and relation to state, local, family, and individual roles in American education;

- provide complete contact information (including email, traditional mail, telephone, and fax) for all Department officials, programs, services, activities, and investigative/enforcement functions; add email addresses to ED staff directory;
- improve **responsiveness to customer inquiries** submitted via email, web forms, and telephone, particularly for student financial aid;
- improve ease of use for student financial aid services (e.g., obtaining a PIN, submitting and revising FAFSA on the Web, checking status of applications, account balance, payment history, downloading loan forms, etc.);
- make it easier to find specific student aid services, e.g., deferment, forbearance, and all other forms, interest rates, loan consolidation and servicing, customer service contacts, resolution of defaulted loans, etc.;
- provide comparative rating and ranking information about schools, districts, and states for student achievement, teacher performance, etc.;
- use the web to support the full grant lifecycle (application, award, and post-award processes) by:
  - providing an always-current forecast of funding opportunities;
  - maintaining web pages with comprehensive, up-to-date information about each grant program in a consistent format;
  - making it easy for people and organizations to find grants for which they are eligible; and
  - providing links from grant competition pages to other information that could be helpful to prospective applicants, e.g., program information, profiles of previous award recipients, and winning applications;
- offer more information and resources of direct utility to parents and teachers, such as lesson plans, educational materials, advice to help parents help their children learn, and professional development workshops and other opportunities for teachers; and
- provide a portal/gateway to help visitors find more education-related information and services elsewhere, including:
  - funding opportunities and teacher certification requirements at state education agencies,
  - scholarship opportunities,
  - college & university degree programs, courses, and ratings,
  - local agencies and authorities for education, child care, housing, safety, and related issues.

Attachments: A: ED Internet Customer Survey – Summary of Responses [7 pages]

B: ED Internet Customer Survey – Selected Comments (Rants & Raves) [2 pages]

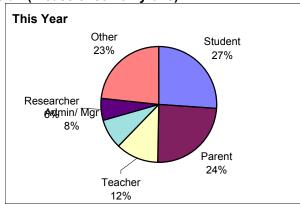
C: ED Internet Customer Survey – Web form [6 pages]

#### **ED Internet Customer Survey** Last Updated: 09/07/2003

Total Responses:	4031		per Wk	
Received before 10/16/2001	3451	85.6%	11.1	pre-10/16/2001
Received 10/16/200110/15/2002	331	8.2%	6.4	Last Year
Received 10/16/20029/7/2003	249	6.2%	5.4	This Year

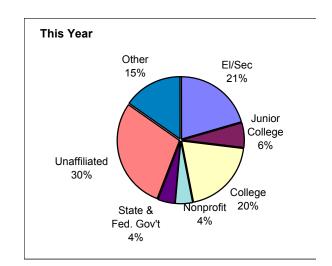
Q1. When you use the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Internet services, are you doing so as a: (Please check only one)

•	pre-10/1	16/2001	Last	Year ´	This	Year	Chang	e from
Response	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>pre-01</u>	<u>LastYr</u>
Student	734	21.3%	91	27.5%	65	26.1%	4.8%	-1.4%
Teacher	548	15.9%	26	7.9%	30	12.0%	-3.8%	4.2%
Ed. administrator or manager	700	20.3%	42	12.7%	21	8.4%	-11.9%	-4.3%
Parent or family member	455	13.2%	59	17.8%	60	24.1%	10.9%	6.3%
Researcher or analyst	361	10.5%	32	9.7%	15	6.0%	-4.4%	-3.6%
Policy maker or legislator	41	1.2%	3	0.9%	1	0.4%	-0.8%	-0.5%
Librarian	63	1.8%	7	2.1%	4	1.6%	-0.2%	-0.5%
Writer or reporter	55	1.6%	4	1.2%	2	0.8%	-0.8%	-0.4%
Other (please specify)	465	13.5%	61	18.4%	46	18.5%	5.0%	0.0%
No response to this question	29	0.8%	6	1.8%	5	2.0%	1.2%	0.2%



#### Q2. What is your affiliation? (Please check only one)

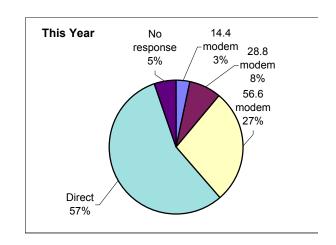
	pre-10/1	16/2001	2001 Last Year		This	Year	Change from		
<u>Response</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>pre-01</u>	<u>LastYr</u>	
<u>Education</u>									
Elementary or secondary (incl.									
vocational high schools)	924	26.8%	71	21.5%	51	20.5%	-6.3%	-1.0%	
Jr, community, or tech college	178	5.2%	14	4.2%	16	6.4%	1.3%	2.2%	
<ul> <li>College or university</li> </ul>	868	25.2%	65	19.6%	50	20.1%	-5.1%	0.4%	
<u>Government</u>									
White House or Congress	9	0.3%	2	0.6%	2	0.8%	0.5%	0.2%	
Federal government agency	109	3.2%	9	2.7%	7	2.8%	-0.3%	0.1%	
State government agency	153	4.4%	7	2.1%	4	1.6%	-2.8%	-0.5%	
<ul> <li>Local government agency</li> </ul>	51	1.5%	5	1.5%	1	0.4%	-1.1%	-1.1%	
Library	32	0.9%	5	1.5%	7	2.8%	1.9%	1.3%	
Association or non-profit org.	249	7.2%	20	6.0%	11	4.4%	-2.8%	-1.6%	
For-profit organization or business	130	3.8%	14	4.2%	1	0.4%	-3.4%	-3.8%	
Media	30	0.9%	0	0.0%	2	0.8%	-0.1%	0.8%	
No affiliation, private individual	530	15.4%	90	27.2%	72	28.9%	13.6%	1.7%	
Other (please specify)	147	4.3%	23	6.9%	16	6.4%	2.2%	-0.5%	
No response to this question	41	1.2%	6	1.8%	9	3.6%	2.4%	1.8%	



Q3. How do you typically access the Internet? (Please check only one)

	pre-10/1	6/2001	Last	Year	This `	Year	Change from		
Response	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>pre-01</u>	<u>LastYr</u>	
14.4kbps or slower modem	385	11.2%	11	3.3%	8	3.2%	-7.9%	-0.1%	
28.8kbps modem	1389	40.2%	22	6.6%	20	8.0%	-32.2%	1.4%	
56kbps or faster modem	212	6.1%	112	33.8%	68	27.3%	21.2%	-6.5%	
Direct connection	1318	38.2%	172	52.0%	140	56.2%	18.0%	4.3%	
No response to this question	147	4.3%	14	4.2%	13	5.2%	1.0%	1.0%	

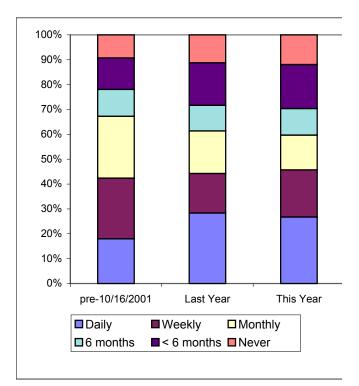
Note: 56kbps category introduced 11/15/2000



#### Q4. How often do you visit our World Wide Web site? (Please check only one)

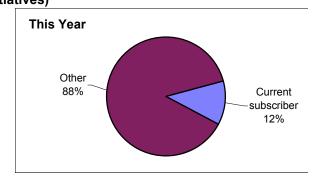
	pre-10/16/2001		Last `	Year	This `	Year	Change	e from
Response	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>pre-01</u>	<u>LastYr</u>
Daily	608	17.6%	91	27.5%	65	26.1%	8.5%	-1.4%
At least once a week	824	23.9%	51	15.4%	46	18.5%	-5.4%	3.1%
At least once a month	840	24.3%	55	16.6%	34	13.7%	-10.7%	-3.0%
At least once every six months	365	10.6%	33	10.0%	26	10.4%	-0.1%	0.5%
Less than once every six months	428	12.4%	55	16.6%	43	17.3%	4.9%	0.7%
Never	314	9.1%	36	10.9%	29	11.6%	2.5%	0.8%
No response to this question	72	2.1%	10	3.0%	6	2.4%	0.3%	-0.6%

Q5. How often do you visit our Gopher site? (Please check only one) (question removed)



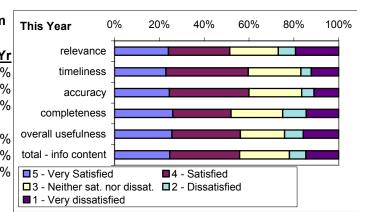
Q6. Do you receive the EDInfo e-mail information service? (EDInfo sends subscribers 2-3 e-mail messages per week announcing and des ED publications, products, grant competitions, and other initiatives)

	pre-10/1	16/2001	Last	Year	This	Year .	Change from		
Response	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>pre-01</u>	<u>LastYr</u>	
Current subscriber	1139	33.0%	28	8.5%	30	12.0%	-21.0%	3.6%	
Former subscriber	32	0.9%	12	3.6%	2	0.8%	-0.1%	-2.8%	
Not familiar with; how do I									
subscribe?	1387	40.2%	129	39.0%	92	36.9%	-3.2%	-2.0%	
Not interested	756	21.9%	142	42.9%	102	41.0%	19.1%	-1.9%	
No response to this question	137	4.0%	20	6.0%	23	9.2%	5.3%	3.2%	



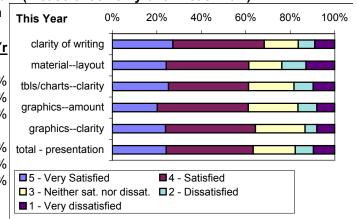
Q7. We want ED Internet services to meet your needs. In general, how satisfied are you with the information content? (Please check only

						row)			
	pre-10/16/2001		Last	Year	This	Year	Change from		
		<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>			
Response	Avg.	Dissat.	<u>Avg.</u>	Dissat.	<u>Avg.</u>	Dissat.	<u>pre-01</u>	<u>LastYr</u>	ì
relevance to your needs	3.70	15%	3.43	24%	3.29	27%	-17.7%	-6.0%	l
timeliness	3.89	10%	3.62	16%	3.54	17%	-13.9%	-3.4%	i
accuracy	3.96	7%	3.63	15%	3.57	17%	-15.0%	-2.3%	1
completeness/ comprehensiveness	3.68	15%	3.43	22%	3.39	25%	-12.4%	-1.8%	O
overall usefulness	3.74	14%	3.45	24%	3.42	24%	-13.1%	-1.4%	t
total - information content	3.79	12%	3.51	20%	3.44	22%	-14.4%	-2.9%	



Q8. In general, how satisfied are you with the way the information is presented? (Please check only one in each row)

	pre-10/	16/2001	Last	Year	This	Year	Change from		
		<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>				
Response	Avg.	<u>Dissat.</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>Dissat.</u>	Avg.	Dissat.	<u>pre-01</u>	<b>LastYr</b>	
clarity of the writing (readability,									
ease of interpretation)	4.15	4%	3.86	12%	3.70	16%	-16.6%	-5.6%	
layout of the material	3.95	8%	3.64	17%	3.49	24%	-18.3%	-5.9%	
clarity of the tables and charts amount of graphics (too few, too	3.95	6%	3.73	11%	3.59	18%	-14.1%	-5.7%	
many)	3.74	8%	3.64	12%	3.57	16%	-6.6%	-2.6%	
clarity of the graphics	3.83	6%	3.71	9%	3.67	13%	-6.1%	-1.4%	
total - presentation	3.93	6%	3.71	12%	3.60	18%	-12.5%	-4.2%	



Q9. In general, how satisfied are you with the way the information is organized? (Please check only one in each row)

	pre-10/	/16/2001	1 Last Year This Year			Chang	e from								
		<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>			This Year	0%	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
Response	<u>Avg.</u>	Dissat.	<u>Avg.</u>	Dissat.	<u>Avg.</u>	Dissat.	<u>pre-01</u>	<u>LastYr</u>		+					
ease of finding information of									finding i	nfo 📉					
interest	3.63	17%	3.29	30%	3.23	31%	-18.3%	-3.1%	finding ne	ws -					
ease of finding new material	3.65	14%	3.37	25%	3.44	22%	-8.8%	2.6%	illianig ne	-					
menus and categories (clarity, ease									menus/categor	ies					
of use)	3.72	12%	3.45	21%	3.37	23%	-14.4%	-3.4%	lir	nks					
links (relevance, usefulness)	3.75	12%	3.47	19%	3.40	22%	-14.7%	-2.9%		1					
search tools	3.59	15%	3.43	21%	3.41	22%	-7.4%	-0.6%	search to	ols					
total - organization	3.67	14%	3.40	23%	3.37	24%	-12.7%	-1.4%	total - organizat	ion 🔚					
									■5 - Very Sa	tisfied		4 - Satisfie	ed		
									□3 - Neither		dissat. 🗖	2 - Dissati	sfied		
									■1 - Very dis	satisfied	l				

Q10. In general, how satisfied are you with the responsiveness of ED Internet services? (Please check only one in each row)

	pre-10/	16/2001	Last	Year	This	Year	Chang	e from						
		<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>			This Year C	)% 20	% 40%	60%	80%	100%
<u>Response</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	Dissat.	<u>Avg.</u>	Dissat.	<u>Avg.</u>	Dissat.	pre-01	LastYr	Web/gopher					
Web/gopher screens									screens	-	•			
(quick/sluggish)	3.75	9%	3.81	10%	3.86	10%	4.1%	1.8%	Searches					
Searches (quick/sluggish)	3.67	11%	3.69	13%	3.75	13%	3.2%	2.4%	email to					
									webmaster					
webmaster@inet.ed.gov (email									total -					
inquiries: speed & quality of reply)	3.63		3.53	11%	3.50	14%		-1.3%						
total - responsiveness	3.69	9%	3.69	12%	3.72	12%	1.3%	1.2%						
									categories					
total - all categories	3.78	11%	3.56	18%	3.51	20%	-11.0%	-2.3%	,		■4 - Satisf			
									□3 - Neither sat. r		■2 - Dissa	tistiea		
									:					

Q11. Our goal is to provide useful information and services. How useful do you find: (Please check only one in each row pre-10/16/2001 Last Year This Year Change from

	pre-10/	16/2001	Lasi	rear	11115	rear	Chang	e iroiii							
		% Rate		% Rate		% Rate			This Year	0%	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
Response	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>Useful</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>Useful</u>	Avg.	<u>Useful</u>	<u>pre-01</u>	<u>LastYr</u>	funding opportunities	,				'	
announcements of funding									3 11	+					$\neg$
opportunities and information about									research reports	,					
grants and contracts	2.50		2.39	65%	2.32		-14.0%	-5.4%		<u> </u>					
research reports	2.46	76%	2.35	68%	2.24	57%	-18.0%	-9.3%	info centers & TACs	,					
directories of information centers,									general guides to ED	, 🗀					
clearinghouses, and technical									gonoral galace to 22	_					
assistance centers	2.45	78%	2.34	66%	2.28	56%	-13.1%	-4.4%	lesson plans	,					
general guides to the Department										<u> </u>					
of Education and its programs and									updates	,					
services	2.38	82%	2.33	74%	2.34	64%	-3.2%	0.5%	statistics	、ҍ—					
lesson plans and teacher guides	2.27	60%	2.33	53%	2.20	44%	-6.0%	-10.4%	Statistics	· 📙					
updates on budget, legislation, and									student aid info	, 🔚					
activities	2.45		2.33	63%	2.35		-7.3%	1.2%		+					
statistics	2.43	76%	2.33	69%	2.19	54%	-20.5%	-12.1%	research findings	,					
student aid information	2.31	62%	2.32	56%	2.34		2.6%	1.6%		<u> </u>					
research findings (syntheses and	2.49	77%	2.32	68%	2.19	58%	-25.1%	-10.7%	calendars & events	· 🛌					
conference calendars and									full-text pubs	, <del> </del>					
announcements of upcoming									12	+					
events	2.31	69%	2.31	59%	2.29		-1.5%	-1.4%	exemplary schools	3					
full-text publications	2.39	74%	2.30	65%	2.29	58%	-7.2%	-0.7%		<u> </u>					
descriptions of exemplary schools									legislation & regulations	, <u> </u>					
and programs	2.40		2.30	63%	2.30		-7.4%	0.3%	practices	, 🗀					
legislation and regulations	2.35	76%	2.30	66%	2.38	59%	2.0%	5.6%	practices	' <b>!</b>					
descriptions of effective and									press releases	,					
promising practices	2.42		2.30	64%	2.26		-13.5%	-3.6%		+	-	-	-		
press releases	2.32	71%	2.28	60%	2.18	45%	-12.1%	-8.2%	pub announcements	,					
publication announcements	2.34	75%	2.27	66%	2.24	55%	-8.1%	-2.9%	ED for de discoste	. t					
									ED-funded projects	·					
descriptions of ED-funded projects	2.35	74%	2.26	64%	2.32	55%	-2.2%	4.6%	activities for families	, <del>                                    </del>					
activities for families, parents, and										+					
children	2.27	64%	2.26	55%	2.20	52%	-5.4%	-4.6%	speeches	;					
speeches and testimony	2.10	62%	2.20	54%	2.11	42%	1.0%	-8.3%							
total - all categories	2.37	72%	2.31	63%	2.27	54%	-8.2%	-3.2%	■3 - Very Useful			2 - Somev			
									□1 - Not Useful		0	ט - טon't l	Jse/ Not A	Applicable	<u>:</u>

Q12. We want to provide information in formats you can use. Your answers to this question will help us understand how you prefer to use information and in what formats.

This question was removed from the survey in September 1998.

Total - all categories

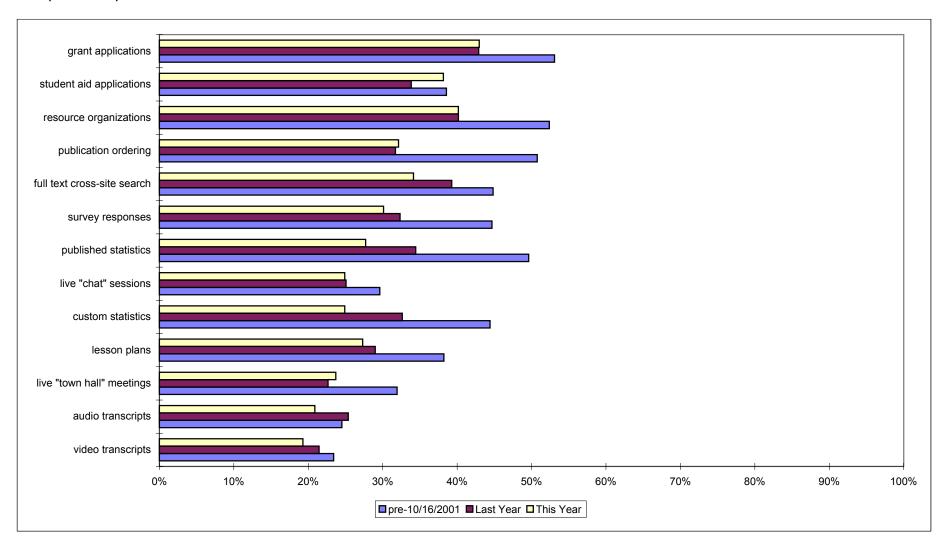
Q13. In the future, would you find any of the following potential applications of more advanced technologies useful? (Please check all t pre-10/16/2001 **Last Year** This Year Change from % % # % # # pre-01 LastYr Rank Rank Rank Transcripts of speeches and presentations made by the Secretary or other Department Audio transcripts -4.1% -2.2% 808 23.4% 14 71 21.5% 13 48 19.3% 14 Video transcripts 846 24.5% 13 84 25.4% 10 52 20.9% 13 -3.6% -4.5% Discussion forums on education topics Live "chat" sessions 1022 29.6% 12 83 25.1% 11 62 24.9% 9 -4.7% -0.2% 1102 31.9% 75 22.7% 23.7% -8.2% 1.0% Live "town hall" meetings with Department 10 12 59 11 Ongoing moderated discussion areas 67 20.2% -6.6% 1032 29.9% 11 14 58 23.3% 12 3.1% **Databases and search capabilities** Education statistics -- published indicators, tables, 1712 49.6% and charts 114 34.4% 27.7% -21.9% -6.7% 69 Education statistics -- custom tables generated from 108 32.6% 6 24.9% 9 -19.5% education survey data sets 1533 44.4% 62 -7.7% Database of education resource organizations (national/regional/state) including information centers, technical assistance centers, services for special populations, exemplary schools and projects, 1808 52.4% 2 133 40.2% 2 100 40.2% 2 -12.2% 0.0% Full text of all education-related materials at federal Internet sites 1547 44.8% 5 130 39.3% 3 85 34.1% 4 -10.7% -5.1% Collections of lesson plans and other teacher materials at federal, state, association, and other 96 29.0% 9 27.3% -10.9% sites 1319 38.2% 9 68 8 -1.7% **Electronic submission of** Student aid applications 1331 38.6% 112 33.8% 5 95 38.2% -0.4% 4.3% Grant applications 1832 53.1% 142 42.9% 107 43.0% -10.1% 0.1% 1 1 107 32.3% 7 Survey responses 1542 44.7% 6 75 30.1% -14.6% -2.2% 8 Orders for printed publications 1752 50.8% 3 105 31.7% 80 32.1% -18.6% 0.4% No Response to this question 636 18.4% 100 30.2% 80 32.1% 13.7% 1.9%

39.7%

30.8%

29.3%

#### Q13 (continued)



# Attachment B ED Internet Customer Survey -- Selected Comments (Rants & Raves)

#### **Raves**

I love your site and your materials. I just received the packet I ordered last week and look forward to my next shipment. The materials are for our new Parent Center. I am so excited about this helpful information that I can give to my students' parents. Thank you so much and I plan to use your site now that I am acquainted with it.

This is my first visit to the site. It seems like a comprehensive and information filled site. I'll be back.

The site is full of pertinent data and links. I bookmarked the site on my first viewing. I stop in daily. Great site!

Great site -

This FAFSA site is so much improved over the last 3 years that we want to give you a great big THANKS! It has made this part of college life much easier!!

Appreciate the timely responses.

Keep up the good work; you have done a great job and this makes my job easier and more helpful to others.

It has been working great for my needs. I think its great.

The publications are interesting and easy for parents to follow-all information is helpful.

I always find what I need.

I think you guys are offering a wonderful service to the community. Keep up the good work, because a lot of citizens appreciate it!

I really appreciate your services.

keep up the good work especially in keeping the people who have the least still involved via internet access through their school or public library.

If anyone wants anymore they're being fussy! still gasping in amazement - and I ain't jokin'!

#### **Attachment B (continued)**

#### **Rants**

VERY UNEASY TO USE. I AM APPALLED WITH THE AMOUNT OF MONEY AND TECHNOLOGY THAT YOUR ORG HAS, AND THIS IS THE BEST YOU CAN DO.

This is the most confusing web site that I have come across in a long time....It is absolutely useless to me....I cannot find any trail or key term to the e-mial (Late Notice)for which I have never been notified.....

It seems to be written in technical mombo jombo, not easily interpreted.

Overly complicated, poorly organized, information overload...and i'm someone with a postgraduate degree...just far too jumbled to be of any use...

could use a lot of improvement

This probably wont get through because you have made it so difficult it is impossible to use. I email daily why dont you use the same system everyone else uses

This site is useless

### **ED Internet Customer Survey**

#### OMB # 1800-0011

We're trying to improve the Internet services of the U.S. Department of Education and we need your help! Please answer the fifteen questions below. It will take about fifteen minutes. Your answers will help guide future development of the Department's Web site and other Internet services.

- If you aren't familiar with our services, you may wish to take a few moments to explore the U.S. Department of Education home page before returning to this page to complete the survey.
- To report specific technical problems with the Web site such as broken links or other errors, use our Problem Report Form.
- If you need a response to a question or suggestion, send email to webmaster@inet.ed.gov. We can't reply to questions you submit through the survey form because it doesn't capture your email address.
- A text version of the survey is available. Email your response to the address on the form.

We'r	re listening! Read <u>an analysis of 3,395 responses</u> received from November 1996 through August 2001.
1.	When you use the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Internet services, are you doing so as a: (Please check only one)
	○ Student
	C Teacher
	C Education administrator or manager
	C Parent or family member
	C Researcher or analyst
	C Policy maker or legislator
	C Librarian
	© Writer or reporter
	Other (please specify)
2.	What is your affiliation? (Please check only one)  Education
	C Elementary or secondary (including vocational high schools)
	O Junior, community, or technical college
	C College or university
	Government
	© White House or Congress
	© Federal government agency
	© State government agency
	C Library
	C Association or non-profit organization
	C Association or non-profit organization
	C For-profit organization or business C Media
	© No affiliation, private individual
	v ino ammanon, pitvate menviena

Hov	w do vou typically	access the In	nternet? /P	Please check only one)			
110	w do you typicany	access the 1	nternet. (1	icuse encen only one)			
0	14.4kbps or slower	modem					
0	28.8kbps modem						
	56kbps or faster me						
0	Direct connection (	(T1, cable mo	odem, DSL,	etc.)			
Hov	w often do you vis	it our <i>World</i>	Wide Web	site? (Please check only o	one)		
0	Daily						
0	At least once a wee	ek					
0	At least once a mor	nth					
0	At least once every	six months					
0	Less than once eve	ry six month	S				
0	Never						
[Qu	estion removed.]						
Dο	you receive the El	DInfo e-mail	informatio	on service? (EDInfo sends	s subscribers 2-	3 e-mail messao	es ner week
							P
ann				ns, products, grant compe	titions, and oth	er initiatives)	
				ns, products, grant compe	titions, and oth	er initiatives)	
0	ouncing and descri			ns, products, grant compe	titions, and oth	er initiatives)	
0	Current subscriber Former subscriber Not familiar with;	ibing new ED	) publication	ns, products, grant compe n't forget to come back an		,	
0	ouncing and descri Current subscriber Former subscriber	ibing new ED	) publication			,	
0 0 0	Current subscriber Former subscriber Not familiar with; Not interested	ibing new ED	publication scribe? (Do	n't forget to come back an	ed complete the	survey)	
O O O	Current subscriber Former subscriber Not familiar with; Not interested	how do I sub	publication scribe? (Do		ed complete the	survey)	nation content?
O O O	Current subscriber Former subscriber Not familiar with; Not interested want ED Internet	how do I sub	publication scribe? (Do	n't forget to come back an	ed complete the	survey)	mation content?
O O O	Current subscriber Former subscriber Not familiar with; Not interested  want ED Internet ease check only one	how do I sub	publication scribe? (Do	n't forget to come back an needs. In general, how sa Information Conte	nd complete the	survey)  with the infori	
O O O	Current subscriber Former subscriber Not familiar with; Not interested want ED Internet	how do I sub	publication scribe? (Do	n't forget to come back an	ed complete the	survey)	nation content? Don't use/ no applicable
We (Ple	Current subscriber Former subscriber Not familiar with; Not interested  want ED Internet ease check only one	how do I sub	publication scribe? (Do	n't forget to come back an needs. In general, how sa Information Conte Neither satisfied nor	nd complete the	survey)  with the inform	Don't use/ no
We (Ple	Current subscriber Former subscriber Not familiar with; Not interested want ED Internet ease check only one  Category relevance to your	how do I sub  t services to a  e in each row,  Very satisfied	scribe? (Do	n't forget to come back an needs. In general, how sa Information Conte Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	nt Complete the	survey)  with the information  Very  dissatisfied	Don't use/ no applicable
We (Ple	Current subscriber Former subscriber Not familiar with; Not interested  want ED Internet ease check only one  Category  relevance to your needs	how do I sub t services to the in each row, very satisfied	scribe? (Do	n't forget to come back and needs. In general, how sa Information Conte	nt Dissatisfied	Survey)  with the information  Very dissatisfied	Don't use/ no applicable
C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	Current subscriber Former subscriber Not familiar with; Not interested  want ED Internet ease check only one  Category  relevance to your needs  timeliness	how do I sub  t services to per in each row,  Very satisfied	scribe? (Do	n't forget to come back and needs. In general, how sa Information Conte	nt Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't use/ no applicable
© © © © © © © O O O O O O O O O O O O O	Current subscriber Former subscriber Not familiar with; Not interested  want ED Internet ease check only one  Category  relevance to your needs  timeliness  accuracy  completeness/	how do I sub  t services to e in each row,  Very satisfied	scribe? (Do	n't forget to come back and needs. In general, how sa Information Conte Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	nt Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't use/ no applicable
© © © © © O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O	Current subscriber Former subscriber Not familiar with; Not interested  want ED Internet ease check only one  Category  relevance to your needs  timeliness accuracy completeness/ omprehensiveness overall usefulness	how do I sub  t services to period and the servi	scribe? (Do	Information Conte Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	nt Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't use/ no applicable
We (Pla	Current subscriber Former subscriber Not familiar with; Not interested  want ED Internet ease check only one  Category  relevance to your needs  timeliness accuracy completeness/ omprehensiveness overall usefulness	how do I sub  t services to period and the servi	scribe? (Do	n't forget to come back and needs. In general, how sa Information Conte Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	nt Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't use/ no applicable
© © © © © O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O	Current subscriber Former subscriber Not familiar with; Not interested  want ED Internet ease check only one  Category  relevance to your needs  timeliness accuracy completeness/ omprehensiveness overall usefulness	how do I sub  t services to period and the servi	scribe? (Do	Information Conte Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	nt Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't use/ no applicable
We (Pla	Current subscriber Former subscriber Not familiar with; Not interested  want ED Internet ease check only one  Category  relevance to your needs  timeliness accuracy completeness/ omprehensiveness overall usefulness	how do I sub  t services to period and the servi	scribe? (Do	Information Conte Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	nt Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't use/ no applicable
We (Ple	Current subscriber Former subscriber Not familiar with; Not interested  want ED Internet ease check only one  Category  relevance to your needs  timeliness accuracy completeness/ omprehensiveness overall usefulness	how do I sub  t services to period and the servi	scribe? (Do	Information Conte Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	nt Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't use/ no applicable

How the Information is Presented								
Category	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't use/ not applicable		
clarity of the writing (readability, ease of interpretation)	0	0	0	0	O	0		
layout of the material	0	0	0	0	0	0		
clarity of the tables and charts	0	0	0	0	0	0		
amount of graphics (too few, too many)	0	0	0	0	O	0		
clarity of the graphics	0	0	0	0	0	0		

If you'd like to give us some specific examples of areas where you like or don't like the way information is *presented*, please do so below.

9. In general, how satisfied are you with the way the information is organized? (Please check only one in each row)

How the Information is Organized								
Category	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't use/ not applicable		
ease of finding information of interest	O	0	O	0	O	0		
ease of finding new material	0	0	0	0	0	0		
menus and categories (clarity, ease of use)	0	0	0	0	0	0		
links (relevance, usefulness)	0	0	0	0	0	0		
search tools	0	0	0	0	0	0		

If you'd like to give us some specific examples of what you like or don't like about how the site is *organized*, please do so below.

10. In general, how satisfied are you with the responsiveness of ED Internet services? (Please check only one in each row)

Responsiveness							
Category	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't use/ not applicable	
Web screens (quick/sluggish)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Searches (quick/sluggish)	0	0	O	0	0	0	
webmaster@inet.ed.gov (email inquiries: speed and quality of reply)	0	0	0	0	O	0	

If you'd like to give us some specific examples of what you like or don't like about the *responsiveness* of our site and services, please do so below.

U.S. Department of Education	<b>Internet Services</b>	Customer Survey
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Page 4 of 5

11. Our goal is to provide useful information and services. How useful do you find: (Please check only one in each row)

Category	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not useful	Don't use/ Not applicable
announcements of funding opportunities and information about grants and contracts	O	O	0	O
student aid information	0	0	0	0
press releases	0	0	0	0
conference calendars and announcements of upcoming events	0	0	0	0
updates on budget, legislation, and activities	0	0	0	0
speeches and testimony	0	0	0	0
Category	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not useful	Don't use/ Not applicable
research findings (syntheses and summaries)	O	0	$\odot$	O
research reports	O	0	0	O
statistics	O	0	0	0
descriptions of effective and promising practices	O	0	0	0
descriptions of exemplary schools and programs	0	0	0	0
directories of information centers, clearinghouses, and technical assistance centers	O	0	0	0
Category	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not useful	Don't use/ Not applicable
general guides to the Department of Education and its programs and services	0	0	0	O
legislation and regulations	0	0	0	0
descriptions of ED-funded projects	0	0	0	0
publication announcements	0	0	0	0
full-text publications	0	0	0	0
activities for families, parents, and children	0	0	0	0
lesson plans and teacher guides	0	0	0	0

If you'd like to give us some specific examples of useful information and services that ED does not now offer, please do so below.

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#### 12. [Question temporarily removed.]

Transcripts of speeches and presentations made by the Secretary or other Department representatives  Audio transcripts  Discussion forums on education topics  Live "town hall" meetings with Department representatives  Ongoing moderated discussion areas  Databases and search capabilities  Education statisties — published indicators, tables, and charts  Education statisties — custom tables generated from education survey data sets  Databases of education resource organizations (national/regional/state) including information centers, technical assistance centers, services for special populations, exemplary schools and projects, etc.  Full text of all education-related materials at federal Internet sites  Collections of lesson plans and other teacher materials at federal, state, association, and other sites Electronic submission of  Student aid applications  Grant applications  Grant applications  Orders for printed publications  How could ED Internet services better meet your needs? Be as specific as possible.		check all that apply)
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13. In the future, would you find any of the following potential applications of more advanced technologies useful? (Please

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